



Friday May 17, 2024 7pm

License Testing 5:30pm

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THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

The Northern California Contest Club

Presented by David West, KO6M

The Northern California Contest Club is a specialized amateur radio club devoted to the pursuit of operating and technical excellence in radio contesting. Our goals are:

- To promote the fun, satisfaction and competitive thrill of radio contesting
- To help our members develop their operating and technical skills to become better contesters
- To win the club competition of major amateur radio contests

As an ARRL affiliated Club, NCCC was founded in August 1970. We have over 300 active members located throughout Northern California and parts of Nevada.

*Our in-person meeting will also be held virtually, via the Zoom video system. The meeting access ID and password will be distributed via groups.io email announcement. The meeting will also be shown on the club digital amateur television repeater, which is live streamed at: <http://w6cxatv.mdarc.org/> and also live streamed on YouTube on the **Media MDARC** channel.*



We have many accomplished and experienced club members. After all, we are an ARRL Special Service Club! The club is looking for amateur radio or communications topics that you or someone you know could present at a future club meeting.

An alternative might be several short presentations on different topics made by multiple persons.

Please direct your suggestions to our Vice President Ed Morales, KJ6KYT at edmorales928@gmail.com.

Your contribution is vital for the continued success of MDARC. We are eager to hear from you!

ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE FREE CLUB E-MAIL GROUP AT:

<https://groups.io/g/MDARC>

Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX
P.O. Box 23222 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
(925) 288-1730 info@mdarc.org

The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and provided space is available.

President - Larry Bradley, KK6QPE
Vice President - Ed Morales, KJ6KYT
Secretary – Brian Lotter, KM6NGS
Treasurer - Barbara Whysong, K6WHY
Emergency Coordinator - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB

Directors At Large
 Trevor Hall, WA6JAU Cal Vasquez, K6VT
 Mark Fehlig WA6NGC Mike Warren, W6MEW

Membership Chair – Jan Kulisek, KM6NFC
mdarcmembership@mdarc.org

PACIFICON 2024

Chair: Julie Mah, WJ8MAH
Registration: Jim Marchetti, KD7G
Treasurer: Barbara Whysong, K6WHY
Secretary: Jeff Mah, N8MAH

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND COORDINATORS

Annual Auction - **vacant**
Communications Trailer - Mike Warren, W6MEW
Communications Van MDARC-1 - Jim Tittle, K6SOE
Digital Media - Grant Bowman, K6CBK
Education & Training - **vacant**
Field Day - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB
Good & Welfare - Diana Sage, KA6TZU
Holiday Dinner - Misa Siemons, KJ6BUE
License Testing - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB
Outreach - Dick Wade, WM6G
Programs - Ed Morales, KJ6KYT
Public Service - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB
Radio Equipment Lending - Cal Vasquez, K6VT
Refreshments - Elizabeth Styles, KG6HLV
Scholarship - Janice Fujii, KG6VTD
Technical Committee - Jim Tittle, K6SOE
Volunteer Classes - Dick Wade, WM6G
W6CX Repeater Trustee - Jim Tittle, K6SOE
W6LGW Callsign Trustee - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB

The Carrier Newsletter
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Printing & Distribution - Jan Kulisek, KM6NFC
Digital Amateur Television Help and Information:
 Fred Coe, WB6ASU wb6asu@icloud.com



Let's just do it! License and my new HT and are ready to go. Now the VHF/UHF world awaits. But wait a minute. What if you want to use my new license in my car or truck?

Well, this little scenario is repeated time and time again by newly licensed Hams and I think many of you have already been there. I know that I have. One of the first things I wanted was to have one of those goodness to gosh radios in my truck. Now if I'd been a prior CB operator I would already have had a good idea how to go about this, but being new to all of this, not much of a clue.

So, allow me to tell you some things I've learned on this journey because it might be applicable to you or somebody you know.

Consider your vehicle: Not all makes and models will easily accommodate adding a rig. I am fortunate, or not, in having an older truck, but more recent vehicles with more electronics and computer control can be fraught with problems when installing a rig. The best bet is to first check your vehicle's manual to see if even lists anything about adding after-market devices.

Consider your reason: Ask yourself why you even want to go to the bother and expense to install a VHF/UHF rig. Typically, those of us who have mobile rigs fall into these general categories: like to monitor our favorite repeaters while driving around town; like to monitor repeaters as we travel longer distances; like to ragchew as we go; like the additional "firepower" while participating in public service events; like to have a when-all-else-fail backup for safety reasons. Sure, there are even more reasons.

Consider your expense: Looking in any Ham radio equipment magazine will show a plethora of rigs with a wide range of prices. It is not necessary to purchase a top-of-the-line rig for your first mobile radio. In fact, many of us have started with a less expensive mobile radio and later changed it out after knowing what we really wanted or needed in a mobile rig. Sometimes for your first mobile rig it is a good idea to avoid all the bells and whistles.

Consider your fellow Hams: It is one thing we all know is that Hams like to talk about the gear...past and present. So, use the opportunity to ask around to see what others have to say about their rigs. Listen for the pros and cons and see how they stack up against your expectations on what you want in a rig.

Consider form factor: Most modern mobile rigs are largely comprised a two major components: the detachable control head and the actual transceiver. The control head is what you will use to operate the rig and therefore what you will physically interact with in your vehicle. The larger transceiver is stored in an out of the way location. Often this is under the seat or in the trunk. You do not want such a large form factor that it becomes difficult to find a suitable place to store it.

(continued on following page)

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Consider the control head location: Obviously the installation of the control head must comply with the DMV rules regarding the obstruction of the driver's view of the road and surroundings. Also, the location of the control head should not be an invitation for distracted driving. Therefore, having the control head where it is easily viewed and reached is an important safety element.



Consider the display: Having a display that can be easily seen is an important safety element. Consider the size of the numbers and text as well and the colors and the contrasts. Also consider whether the brightness can be changed to suit the need. For example, for safety reasons it might be a good idea to have the option to reduce the brightness or in a particular sunny day, to increase the brightness.

Consider passenger comfort: Remember that vehicle space is usually a shared space. So be cautious about installing mounts and other gear that could affect the comfort of others.



DON'T BE THIS GUY !!

Consider aesthetics: I think we all have an idea on how we would like something to look that is both practical and at the same time visually pleasing. Frankly, I'm not much for the frankenmobiles that we occasionally see driving around, but I guess each to his or her own taste. Just doesn't happen to be mine.

Consider an Elmer: Although I know the basics of how to complete the mobile rig installation, I was still cautious on just how to go about it. Hey, I even knew that it had to have power, but did not know how to run wires through the firewall. In my case, Mike Patterson, N6JGA, offered to give me some pointers and after we met, I had much better knowledge on what to look out for and how to proceed.

Consider getting an installer: It is perfectly understandable if you prefer to hire an installer to install your mobile rig. A knowledgeable installer will know the limitations of your make and model vehicle as well as know how to minimize any vehicle modifications that may be required for the installation.

I recently watched Diego Fuentes install specialized equipment on about ten law enforcement vehicles. I spoke with him about doing amateur radio equipment and he mentioned that he does these installations. I noticed that he was knowledgeable and meticulous in his workmanship and certainly had the right tools. You might want to check with him and get an estimate:

RELENTLESS EMERGENCY VEHICLES

Diego Fuentes, owner Email: REV.Upfitting@gmail.com Cell: 510.613.5196

EVT Certified: Emergency Lighting and Accessories, Police/Fire/Off-Road/Utility

Consider your antenna: Now, this is a whole other subject and not something I can tackle, but your best resource for selecting an antenna are your fellow hams.

(continued on page 17)

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Devil Mountain Run

Sunday May 19, 2024

Foot race in downtown Danville

Contact: George Moorehead, KG6GEM kg6wui1@comcast.net

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844AEAD28A6FA7-devil1#/>

Boy Scout Hike Berkeley Hills

Saturday, June 1, 2024

Scouts Hike 20 Miles in Tilden Park

Radio Coordinator: Dave Shaw, WB6WTM, wb6wtm@arrl.net

Lake Chabot Trail Challenge – Running Race (SEE NEXT PAGE)

Sunday, June 2, 2024

Running race, 5k and ½ Marathon in Castro Valley

Radio Coordinator: Larry Loomer, KI6LNB <larylloomer@yahoo.com>

Race Director: Rachel Lunt

Marin Amateur Radio Society June 9 - Dipsea

Contact Larry Loomer larylloomer@yahoo.com for signup information

Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club Field Day June 22 – 23, Concord, CA
(see next page)

Marin Amateur Radio Society July 20 – MCBC Dirt Fondo

Contact Larry Loomer larylloomer@yahoo.com for signup information

Marin Amateur Radio Society July 27 – San Francisco Marathon

Contact Larry Loomer larylloomer@yahoo.com for signup information

Marin Amateur Radio Society August 3 – Marin Century

Contact Larry Loomer larylloomer@yahoo.com for signup information

Skyline 50k – Running Race

Sunday, August 4, 2024

Running Race in the Oakland Hills

Race Coordinator: Larry Loomer, KI6LNB <larylloomer@yahoo.com>

Scena Performance adam.ray@scenaperformance.com

Marin Amateur Radio Society August 24 – Double Dipsea

Contact Larry Loomer larylloomer@yahoo.com for signup information



My Fellow Hams,

We are looking for volunteers for the Lake Chabot Trail Challenge in Castro Valley on June 2, 2024.

We have four drive in assignments and two hike in assignments, one 0.70 miles and one 0.86 miles.

When you volunteer, please let me know your shirt size if you would like to have an event shirt.

The assignments are from 0730 hours to 1230 hours. Some water stations will close earlier, depending on when the last runner comes through that station.

Please contact Larry Loomer, KI6LNB, <larylloomer@yahoo.com> to volunteer.

K6SHO, K6TDG and KG6PHZ have already volunteered for this event.

Thank you for considering joining us.

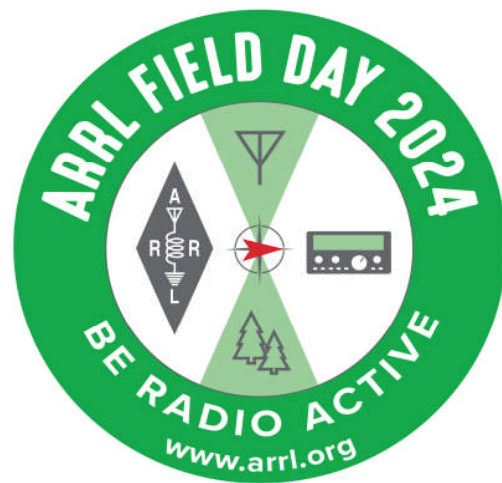
73, Larry, KI6LNB



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ARRL FIELD DAY ACTIVITIES, JUNE 21 - 22 - 23, 2024

Our club needs volunteers for the following positions at the W6CX Field Day Site, which will again be set up at Olympic High School, 2730 Salvio Street in Concord.

1. Persons to deliver, set up and dismantle the amateur radio equipment, tables and chairs.
2. Public information table and visitor logger
3. Field Day Publicity
4. Safety Officer
5. Public service antenna display
6. Morse code telegraph key sending
7. Operators to demonstrate HF radio transmitting and receiving
8. Two operators for the “Get on the Air” (GOTA) station
9. Digital Amateur Television (DATV) repeater operators to assist with DATV repeater demonstration
10. Operators to demonstrate the solar charging system for the MDARC trailer battery
11. Two Volunteer Examiners (VEs) to assist with license testing at 1pm on Saturday June 22
12. Multiple volunteers are needed to supervise the free food being served for Friday dinner, Saturday (breakfast, lunch and barbecue dinner) and Sunday breakfast; a barbecue grill and a person to do the cooking is needed



The following activities are also planned:

A Get-on-the-Air (GOTA) class will be presented on Saturday June 22 at 10:00am. This class is directed at the General Class license students and anyone else who wants to learn about antennas and amateur radio operations.

Larry Loomer, KI6LNB, will demonstrate a vehicle-mounted (mobile) solar power system

Mike Warren, W6MEW, will demonstrate digital radio contacts

KI6LNB will demonstrate the MDARC trailer's auxiliary generator and W6MEW will demonstrate the trailer's features and capabilities.

Charles Henry, KG6PHZ, will demonstrate his solar panel array trailer, which will power all of our club's 2024 Field Day activities.

To volunteer, please contact me at larylloomer@yahoo.com .

73, Larry Loomer, KI6LNB Field Day Chair

26 years of Ham Radio support for the MS Walk

By Pete Harris, KE6ZIW

I want to thank the ham radio operators who took part in the April 21 MS Walk at Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek for their great work in providing important communications for the event. Their public service work helped keep about 500 event walkers safe, and contributed to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's ability to conduct the event in a well-organized way.

The MS Walk amateur radio team consisted of:

Gene Tucker, KD6QPU, 3-mile route segment 1

Jane Blanchard, KN6CMT, 3-mile route segment 2

Dave Blanchard, KN6TFS, 3-mile route segment 3

Alan Stokol, KN6YWT, Rest Stop 2

Eoin O'Donoghue, KK6Q, Biker 1

Tam Dang-Gainer, K6TDG, Biker 2

Rich Lueck, K6REL, Recumbent Bike, 1-mile route

John Rio, N6RIO, 1-mile route & Rest Stop 1

Larry Bradley, KK6QPE, Event Staff Shadow

Pete Harris, KE6ZIW, Net Control

Steve Donovan, WB6SAI, Net Control (last minute cancel due to family need)



Many of the walkers were disabled and/or used mobile devices. The ten member team of hams monitored the two walking trails (3-mile route and 1-mile route) by foot, bikes and recumbent bike, at busy street crossings, at rest stop stations, and in "sweeping" the course at the end to make sure there were no stranded walkers - all with special attention to safety issues. The radio team interfaced with event staff team to make sure important information was exchanged.

Our club has been providing communications for this very worthwhile event for over 25 years. I first participated in 1996 under the great coordination of Dick Brown, KT6X, who opened my eyes to the great fun and satisfaction of participating in public service events.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Rich Lueck, K6REL, Larry Bradley, KK6QPE, Dave Blanchard, KN6TFS, Pete Harris, KE6ZIW (kneeling), John Rio, N6RIO, Eoin O'Donoghue, KK6Q, Jane Blanchard, KN6CMT, Tam Dang-Gainer, K6TDG (kneeling), Alan Stokol, KN6YWT, Gene Tucker, KD6QPU.



LEFT: Pete Harris, KE6ZIW, at the amateur radio command post.

BELOW: Participants gather at Heather Farm Park.

(Both photos by Eoin O'Donoghue, KK6Q)



MDARC CAMPOUT May 31 - June 2, 2024



Located at the Sugar Pine Dam Recreation Area in the Forbes Creek section at the Rocky Ridge group site. It is one of the most beautiful spots in Placer County. This will be a joint venture between our club and another group of radio amateurs who have meeting for this annual event for over 50 years. We are limited to 50 people at this site so get your reservations in early.

At approximately 3,000 feet above sea level, the campground has water and restroom facilities, no hookups, but nice spaces for trailers, tents and motor homes. There are three large barbecue pits available at our site as well as a large recessed pit for a grand campfire. There are plenty of trees as well as open space for stringing a G5RV and a double extended Zepp for your HF station if it is your desire to bring one.

Call-in will be on the Mount Diablo W6CX (147.06 +600 100hz PL) repeater.

Friday

Between 12 noon and 1 PM, the forest ranger will arrive to unlock the gate for access to our site. The gate will remain open through out our stay. Also during this time and throughout the afternoon and the early evening the 145.43 repeater (PL 162.2hz), as well as the 146.745 -600 W6SAR Foresthill PL 156.7 will be monitored. If you are a distance away from the campsite, the Mt. Diablo W6CX repeater will be available. When you arrive, park at any of the available spaces. There are plenty.

That evening, you are on your own for dinner. Use your Weber or the barbecue pits provided at the site.

A campfire and star party with telescopes will take place after dark.

Saturday

In the morning, you are on your own for breakfast after which, if you desire, join us for a hike to and around the lake. Weather pending, the view will be picture postcard as we make our way around. We will pass the swimming area and cross the dam as we make our way back to Rocky Ridge. The hike should take approximately 2 hours.

After arriving back at the campsite, you are on your own for lunch if you desire but most of us would probably settle for a tall cold one. Later on you can scrounge around for wood for the campfire that night. Around 4:30 the full socializing begins and the bar is open. Bring out the appetizers and munches which is part of the pot luck. Also during this time, the host supplied charcoal will be prepared and the barbecue pits will be lit. However, before dinner as an idea conceived by Fred Townsend AE6QL, we will have a champagne cork popping contest. To participate in this event, bring your own champagne ...**AND NO BOTTLES WITH SCREW-ON CAPS...**
CORK ONLY.

As for dinner that follows, the hot coals will be provided for cooking your choice of meat. Please bring out a side dish, salad, rolls for dinner and dessert to share.

After dinner, the camp fire will be started so bring your own marshmallows. The sticks will be provided by the campsite. Enjoy the fire as we sing, chat, or whatever you would like to do at this time. Plus we will have a real space odyssey star party with a few astronomical telescopes set up.

(continued on following page)

Sunday

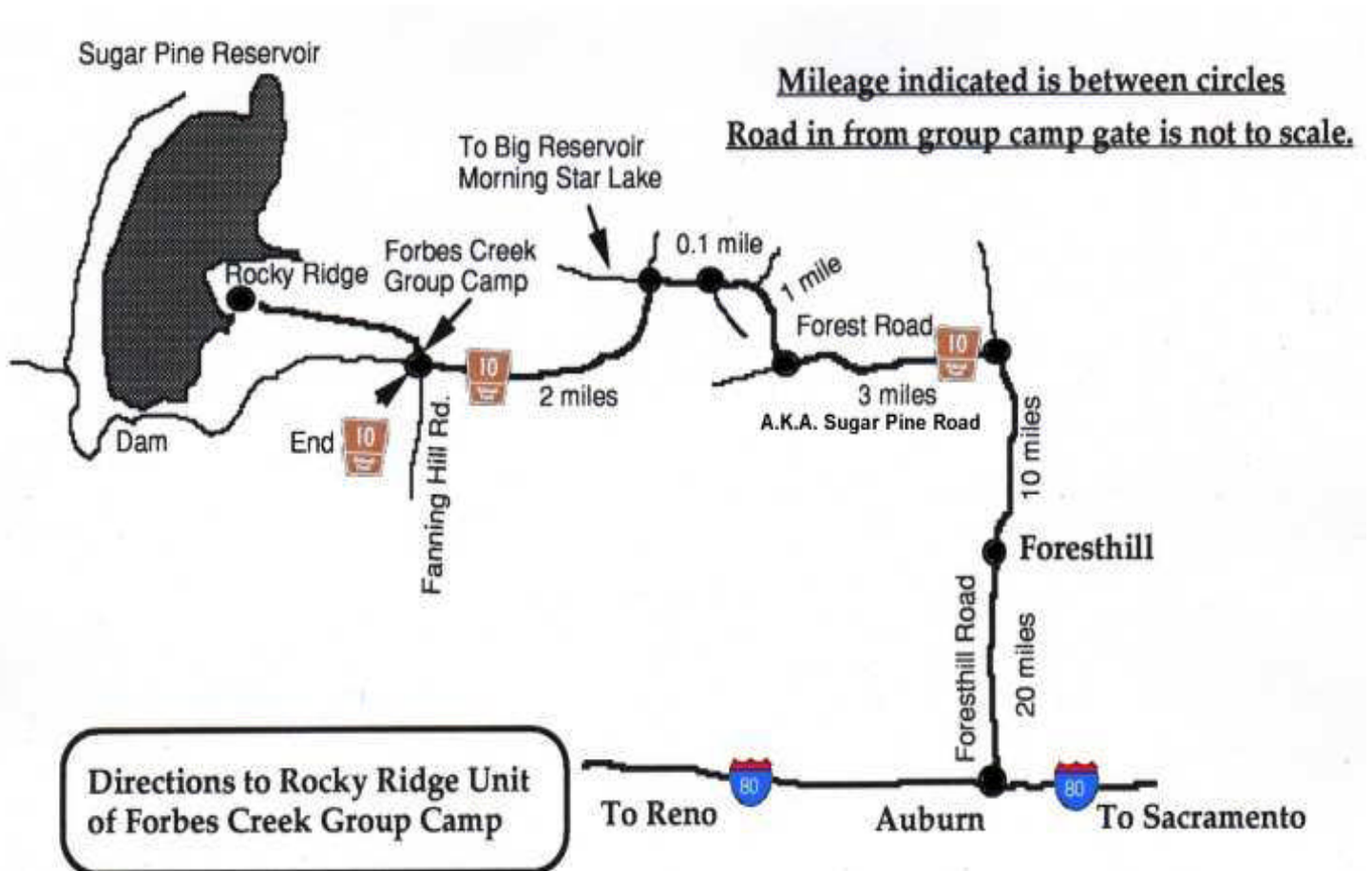
At approximately 8 am, preparation will be underway for the host provided barbecued pancakes. Supply your own beverages and sides and share if you like.

Looks Great...Now How Do We Get There??

From San Francisco, drive east on Interstate 80 through Auburn and exit at Foresthill. Head east on Foresthill Road crossing the mile long panoramic American River Bridge. Continue heading east for about 20 miles and you will reach the town of Foresthill. After passing through town continue east for another 10 miles and turn left at Sugar Pine Dam Road. There should be sign just before you reach the junction. Once you are on Sugar Pine Dam Road (Route 10), follow the road carefully, there are a few turnoffs that can possibly throw you off course. **If you have any questions while on Foresthill or Sugar Pine Dam road, you should be in simplex range. Monitor 146.49. The 145.43 (PL 162.2) Auburn repeater should also be available and it will be the primary talk-in to get you to the site.** In any case, stay on the blacktop. Eventually you approach a junction with the main road going slightly to the left and a road going slightly to the right with a gate which should be open for us. This is also the junction where route 10 ends as indicated by a sign even though the road continues. As you go past the gate, there is a sign posted there marking the reserved group campsites. Follow the signs for the Rocky Ridge site which will be reserved for us. The total drive time from San Francisco to the campground should be approximately 3 hours if you avoid the Bay Area and Sacramento rush hours.

In the late morning, it's cleanup time and we say our good-byes until next year.

RSVP. to Julie Mah, WJ8MAH juliemah4@yahoo.com



On Line SWR Calculator

By Joy Rabins, N6GO

This is a on-line calculator that helps make adjustments to wire antennas you are trying to make resonant for a particular frequency when it's initially resonant at another frequency.

I have only made a few wire antennas and when it isn't resonant at the frequency I want, I scratch my head trying to figure out, do I add to the wire, do I fold back the wire. After I figure out which direction to go, I have no idea how much wire to add or remove. It seems this calculator may make that process a lot quicker and easier. Below are links to the calculator.

Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2sJkPpaNseE>

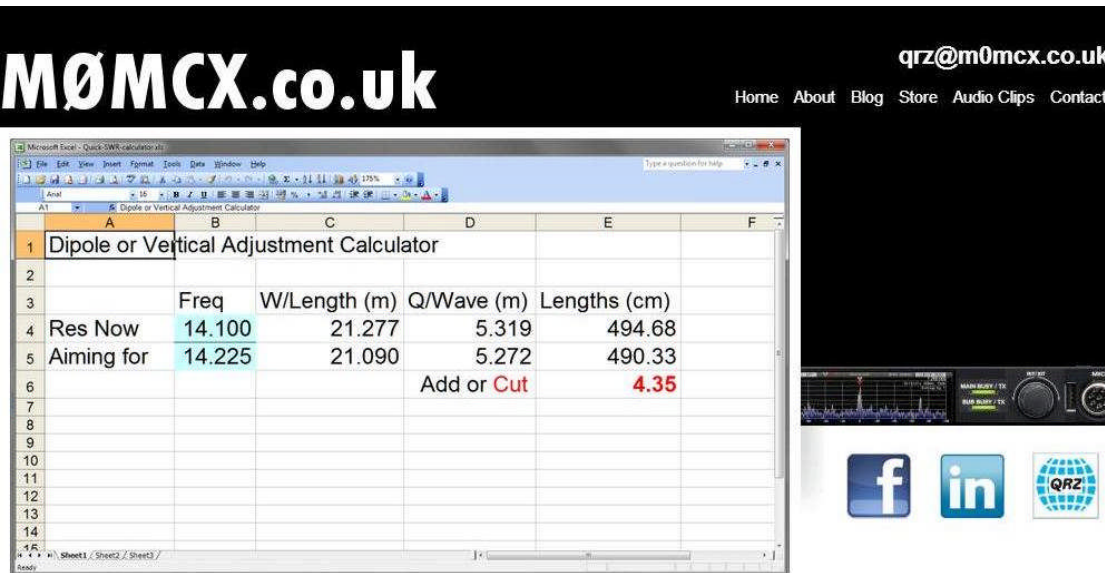
Calculator:

<https://www.m0mcx.co.uk/quick-swr-calculator-for-vertical-and-dipole-ham-radio-antennas/>

M0MCX.co.uk

qrz@m0mcx.co.uk

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Quick SWR Calculator for Vertical and Dipole Ham Radio Antennas

You only need to type in the numbers in the Cyan boxes:

- For Dipoles: Cut / Add the result to each leg
- For Verticals: Cut / Add result to your vertical radiator

Just type in where it is resonant right now – then type in where you would like it to be resonant and the spreadsheet will auto-calculate the trimming.

- Version 2 Quick-SWR-calculator <<DOWNLOAD HERE>>

* Thank you to Aubrey (AubsUK on YouTube) for the Online version below:

Resonant Now	Frequency (MHz) 3.6	Wave	1/4-Wave	Length
Aiming for	Frequency (MHz) 3.7	Wave	1/4-Wave	Length

Calculate

MDARC General Meeting Minutes March 15, 2024

Held as hybrid Zoom and in-person meeting.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by MDARC president Larry Bradley KK6QPE.

a. Welcome to all: Larry KK6QPE welcomed all attendees and indicated the positions of the emergency exits and restrooms. He reported that he, Mike Warren W6MEW, Marilyn Warren and Larry Loomer KI6LNB had attended the Contra Costa Science and Engineering Fair in order to judge the entries and award an MDARC prize. They found two projects that they deemed to be worthy of the prize and decided to split the \$200 prize between them.

b. Pledge of Allegiance: This was made by attendees.

c. Acknowledge new members: New members were acknowledged.

d. Acknowledge visitors: Visitors were acknowledged. Mike Patterson N6JGA introduced Anthony Marcin W7XM, the ARRL Pacific Division Director.

2. Approval of Minutes from the Last Meeting: The February 2024 minutes were approved.

3. Officer Reports:

a. President: Larry Bradley KK6QPE had no report.

b. Vice President: Ed Morales KJ6KYT had no report.

c. Secretary: Brian KM6NGS had no report.

d. Treasurer: Barbara Whysong K6WHY displayed her report as follows:

Monthly Report - February, 2024

TOTAL CLUB ACTIVITY

	MDARC	Pacificon	TOTAL
Income	11,487.32	2,157.36	13,644.68
Expense	4,336.70	10,855.00	15,191.70
Net Income	7,150.62	(8,697.64)	(1,547.02)

ACCOUNTS

MDARC Checking Account Balance	35,117.73
MDARC Savings Account Balance	28,422.12
Total MDARC Checking & Savings	63,539.85
Equipment Self-Insurance Fund	62,635.23
PACIFICON Checking Account Balance	17,145.81
Total Account Balances	143,320.89

e. Emergency Coordinator: Larry KI6LNB had no report.

(continued on following page)

4. Directors at Large

Mike W6MEW, and Trevor WA6JAU had nothing to report. Mark Fehlig WA6NGC wanted to follow up about the backup power supply of the repeater and whether anybody gets a text or an email report when the power goes down. It was confirmed that the backup generator has been connected and that Trevor is not notified via email or text when the power goes out. Cal K6VT was not present.

5. Committee Reports – Standing:

- a. Auction: Report not scheduled or unavailable.
 - b. Outreach Coordinator: Report not scheduled or unavailable.
 - c. Technical: Jim Tittle K6SOE was not present but Trevor WA6JAU confirmed that everything is up and running and that the new antenna has been installed.
 - d. Digital Media: Grant Bowman, K6CBK had no report.
 - e. Education and Training: Larry KK6QPE reported that he is filling in as the temporary committee chair person. He stated that the Technician Course has been completed and that one GOTA class has been done with a second GOTA class on the coming Tuesday evening. A number of people came for license testing and all scored above 32 which is a good indicator of the quality of our classes. The General class will start on the 26th and it is a 9-week course.
 - f. Pacificon: Report not scheduled or unavailable.
 - g. Membership: Jan KM6NFC reported the numbers as follows; Paying members 204; Total including family members 253 and those who haven't renewed yet 115. He will send out some more reminders.
 - h. Public Service: Larry KI6LNB reported that the race from the top to the bottom of Mount Diablo had been cancelled due to the rain. The cancellation happened at 10pm the night before. It was most disappointing because all of the setup had been completed. He also announced upcoming events which can all be found on the MDARC website.
 - i. Vehicle Committee [MDARC-1) Report not scheduled or unavailable.
 - j. License Testing: Larry KI6LNB reported that they had 2 Technician candidates for testing tonight.
 - k. Trailer Committee: Report not scheduled or unavailable.
 - l. Field Day: Larry KI6LNB reported that arrangements for Field Day at Olympic High School in Concord are in progress.
 - m. Holiday Banquet: Report not scheduled or unavailable.
 - n. Election Committee: Report not scheduled or unavailable.
 - o. Program Committee: Ed KJ6KYT had no report.
- Lauren Styles WA6CIE reported that the Leap Year Net that was held during the normal Thursday night time slot on February 29th was a success. During the 75-minute time period, 106 people signed in, more than on any net ever held on the repeater. 59 of those people were regular net attendees. They are still working on a certificate for the attendees.

Dave Billeci WA6UHA reminded the meeting of the upcoming campout at Sugar Pine Dam Recreation Area on May 30th. Anybody who is interested should contact Julie Mah.

6. Unfinished Business: None

7. Adjourn Business Meeting: Lauren WA6CIE seconded by Mike W6MEW, proposed a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Brian Lotter, KM6NGS
Secretary, on April 14, 2024.

MDARC Board of Directors Meeting April 1, 2024

Held at Zoom online

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Larry Bradley, KK6QPE after it was determined that there was a quorum for conducting Club business.

2. Roll Call: Attendees via Zoom screen shot:

Officers: Larry Bradley KK6QPE, President; Ed Morales KJ6KYT, Vice President; Brian Lotter KM6NGS, Secretary; Larry Loomer KI6LNB, Emergency Coordinator; Mike Warren W6MEW, Director at Large; Trevor Hall WA6JAU, Director at Large; Mark Fehlig WA6NGC, Director at Large.

Committee Chairs/Coordinator: Jan Kulisek KM6NFC; Grant Bowman K6CBK.

Guests: Mike Patterson N6JGA; Jim Marchetti KD7G; Ron Minnich AJ6OT.

3. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting: ED KJ6KYT, seconded by Trevor WA6JAU, proposed a motion to approve the minutes. The minutes of the February 5th Board of Directors Meeting were unanimously approved.

4. Adopt Tonight's Agenda: Trevor WA6JAU, seconded by Ed KJ6KYT, proposed a motion to adopt tonight's agenda. The agenda was approved without objection.

5. Officer reports:

- a. President Larry Bradley KK6QPE had no report.
- b. Vice-President Ed Morales KJ6KYT – Had no report.
- c. Secretary Brian Lotter KM6NGS – Had no report.
- d. Treasurer Barbara Whysong K6WHY – Was absent.

6. Emergency Coordinator Report: Larry KI6LNB had no report.

7. Directors at large reports:

Mike Warren W6MEW – Had no report. Trevor Hall WA6JAU – Had no report. Cal Vasquez K6VT – Was absent
Mark Fehlig WA6NGC – Had no report.

8. Committee Reports:

- a. Auction: Vacant. No report was expected.
- b. Communications Trailer: Mike W6MEW had nothing to report.
- c. Digital Media: Grant K6CBK was not present at this time.
- f. Education and Training: Larry KK6QPE reported that the first session of the General Class has been done and that there were 10 attendees.
- g. Election Committee: No report was expected.
- h. Field Day: Larry KI6LNB reported that he has received an invoice from Olympic High school for 50% of the fee and that they have requested that insurance details be taken care of.
- i. Holiday Banquet: No report.
- j. License Testing: Larry KI6LNB reported that two people passed their test on March 15 and that the next testing will be at Our Savior's Lutheran Church on April 19th at 5:30 pm.
- k. Membership: Jan KM6NFC reported the numbers as follows; Paying members 234, All Current members 286, New members this year 11, Renewals last 30 days 32, Past due 82 and Honorary members 12.
- l. Mesh Committee: Mike W6MEW had no report.
- m. Outreach: Dick Wade WM6G was not present.
- n. PACIFICON: Julie WJ8MAH was not present and nobody else had anything to report.
- o. Programs: Ed KJ6KYT said that John Portune is the speaker for the April 19 meeting and we have speakers for May, July and August. There is no June meeting due to Field Day. Ed is following up with other potential speakers and will convene a Programs meeting in the next month or two. He asked for any interested parties to join him. He also asked for anybody in the group to suggest the name of a special speaker for Pacificon.
- p. Public Service: Larry KI6LNB outlined upcoming events, details of which can be found on the MDARC website under Public Service.

(continued on following page)

- q. Radio Lending Library: No report was expected.
- r. Rocky Ridge Repeater (Tech): There was no report.
- s. Scholarship: No report was expected.

9. Future Meetings:

General Meeting 04/19/2024 hybrid in-person and on Zoom. Board Meeting 05/06/2024 on Zoom only.

10. Unfinished Business:

- 10.1 Status report on revising Membership database for processing and tracking payments, new payment gateway status: This still needs to be tested by Barbara K6WHY, Grant K6CBK and at least two others before the questionnaire from Stripe can be completed. Stripe requires this to ensure that the site is being professionally run.
- 10.2 Pacificon Funds Transfer Policy: This is on hold.
- 10.3 Auction: Larry requested a vote on whether to have an auction this year or not. Mike W6MEW, seconded by Brian KM6NGS, proposed a motion that we do not have an auction this year. The motion passed without objection.
- 10.4 Financial Audit: Larry KK6QPE reported that Barb K6WHY has been in contact with John Trinterud K9ONR and he expects a report at the next Board Meeting.
- 10.5 Asset List: Larry stated that the bylaws require that the treasurer maintains a list of assets and asked everybody to send a list, of all club assets under their control, to Barbara. There was some discussion of how to establish a value for each item and how low of a value needs to be tracked. We will wait for further input from Barbara.
- 10.6 Summit generator: Trevor WA6JAU confirmed that the portable generator is still in service on South Peak and that the permanent Generator is installed on site, but not hooked up yet.
- 10.7 Pie and \$25 gift card Raffle: Larry sought the opinion of the Board as to whether the Raffle should be a winner takes all or if it should be split into two drawings. The consensus was two separate drawings.
- 10.8 Did Trevor's phone get remove from the MDARC call: (925) 288-1730? This item was not discussed.
- 10.9 \$250 for ARRL's book offer: Should we? Where do they go? This item was not discussed.
- 10.10 Write Policy: In response to item 3, New Business of the meeting on 03/04/24, Jim Marchetti KD7G presented a draft proposal for repeater policies and procedures. Larry thanked Jim for his extensive report and asked that he send it to him (Larry), as a text document, so that he could send it out on groups.io for comments.
- 10.11 The Member wishing to update his Will for Board's determination of distribution of amateur radio equipment has been notified that the Board declined the offer: Larry KK6QPE announced that he has notified the member of the Board's decision.
- 10.12 Was the router installed on North Peak for the MESH committee? It was decided that Jim Tittle's input is required to proceed with this issue and that, since Jim was not present, it will be revisited during the next Board Meeting.

11. New Business:

- 11.1 \$3,200 anonymous donation to MDARC: What to use it for etc.: Larry KK6QPE advised that this donation has been received and that the issue will be discussed at the next Board Meeting.
- 11.2 Emergency Preparedness Fair on 09/05/24 from 4pm to 7 pm, Todos Santos Plaza. Booth? Comm Van? Larry KK6QPE stated that he thinks that it would be good for MDARC to participate in the event. After some discussion of the merits, Larry stated that somebody, who is interested in putting this on, should contact him.
- 11.3 Special Awards presented at the Contra Costa County Science and Engineering Fair on 03/08/24. \$100 each to these projects "Autonomous Unmanned Surface Vessel (AUSV) for Marine Applications" and "Structure-Property Relations of Piezoelectric Coefficient": Larry mentioned that he, Larry Loomer and Mike and Marilyn Warren had attended the fair and awarded \$100 to each of the above two projects.
- 11.4 Need presenters for MDARC Emergency Communication and Auxiliary Amateurs Radio presentations: Em Comm:06/11/24 (Kristen McIntyre, K6WX); 06/18/24. Aux. Amateur Radio 09/10/24, 09/17/24: Larry reported that Kristen McIntyre has agreed to do EmComm on 06/11/24 but that we still need presenters for each of the above two presentation on 06/18/24, 9/10/24 and 09/17/24.
- 11.5 Amend MDARC Bylaws to add to Section 4: Balloting the following sentence; **Members may only vote for nominated candidates who have been published in the Club newsletter and write-in candidates are not allowed.** Larry KK6QPE explained his thinking behind this proposal as follows, During the last election, a situation occurred which, since we had no name for Vice President on the slate, would have allowed anybody to nominate himself for VP and vote for himself and hence become Vice President. There was some discussion on how to avoid this situation, but no foolproof suggestions came up, so the issue was left for further discussion.

(continued on following page)

12. Good of the order:

Jan KM6NFC added that the earlier discussion on payment processing relates to renewal of membership only. New members will be dealt with in the next phase of the development.

13. Adjournment:

Mike W6MEW, seconded by Ed, proposed a motion to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Brian Lotter KM6NGS

Secretary, May 4, 2024.

These meeting minutes were signed digitally due to the digital meeting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - continued from page 4

Consider your antenna: Now, this is a whole other subject and not something I can tackle, but your best resource for selecting an antenna are your fellow hams.

Let me conclude with some on line resources you may wish to check that could give you some guidance.

<https://www.hamradioschool.com/post/ham-radio-mobile-installation-going-mobile-part-1>

<https://www.hamradioschool.com/post/ham-radio-mobile-installation-going-mobile-part-2>

<https://www.instructables.com/No-Damage-Ham-Radio-Installation/>

Installing your ham radio in a vehicle https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBzENxqQA_w



This is the Yaesu FTM-400DR control head in my truck and the transceiver is under the driver's seat.

73, Larry Bradley, KK6QPE, President



Carl Gentry, KO6AXA

Ryan Jacobs, K6WEQ

John Kim, K1ROK

Robert G. Teal, KO6DSF

If you hear these new members on the air, please welcome them to our club.

----- Jan Kulisek, KM6NFC, Membership Chair

ESTATE SALE

Astron VS-35M 2 to 15 volts 35 amp power supply \$160

Astron RS-35M 35 amp power supply \$180

Kenwood IF-232C computer interface \$20

Kenwood TS-2000 HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver \$800

Kenwood SP-23 external speaker for TS-450 \$100

Yaesu G-800DXA rotator controller only (no rotator) \$80

Diamond MX-72H HF-VHF/UHF Duplexer \$30

Vibroplex Keyer \$90

McElroy semi-automatic telegraph key \$150

Reasonable offers for any of the above considered. Contact:

Kim Leong, N6YJ, 925-575-1941 or n6yj.qth@gmail.com

Low-Cost Receivers for Digital Amateur Television Reception Available For Sale from Club Member KA3VDT

These are DVB-S2 receivers pre-programmed for our club's 1.2 GHz W6CX DATV repeater frequencies

Connect a 1.2 GHZ directional antenna, aim it at Mount Diablo's North Peak and watch the over the air repeater signal on your video monitor

Please contact Will Roberts at ka3vdt@gmail.com or visit

<http://laser66.com/ham/>

To purchase a DATV transmitter, contact Fred Coe, WB6ASU, at wb6asu@icloud.com

2024 Carmichael Elks Ham Radio and Electronics Swap Meet May 26



The 2024 Annual Carmichael Elks Ham Radio and Electronics Swap Meet is scheduled for Sunday, May 26 from 7 am to 11 am at the Carmichael Elks Lodge on the corner of Cypress and Hackberry, 5631 Cypress Ave, Carmichael, CA 95608. Parking is FREE to buyers on the east lot.

For Sellers: South lot spaces are \$10 each space. Thank an Elk for this great price!

The Elks Lodge will be selling coffee, water, maybe dogs and doughnuts.

Meet other hams and radio and electronics hobbyists!

Win Door Prizes!

Visit the ARRL Information booth.

There will be an electronic salvage trailer available for stuff you want to donate. This is a LEAVE NO TRACE event. We want to leave the Elks facility cleaner than we found it!

— John Dyer, KJ6JD

20th Annual Northern Nevada Radio Swap Meet

Saturday June 1, 2024 at N7RCA Radio Ranch



An ARRL-Sanctioned Event

7:00am until 12 noon 1780 Bobcat Court, Minden, Nevada

VINTAGE EQUIPMENT, Modern gear, Drake, Collins, Johnson, Hi-Fi, all electronics.

Agenda: Swap - Buy - Sell - Trade- Have fun

No fee event, free for the hobbyist!

Swap meet is on N7RCA's 6-acre ranch. Parking, trailers and RV have easy access.

WHERE: N7RCA in Minden, NV.

20 miles from South Lake Tahoe 15 miles south of Carson City NV.

WHAT TO BRING:

- *Yourself, truckloads of equipment if you have it, family, friends etc.
- *Bring your own drinks and food etc., none provided.
- *Chairs and a tables for swap.

You can drop off large loads the night before. RV's welcome on the ranch, before and after the swap meet...lots of parking.

Map and contact information at <https://www.n7rca.com>

Weather Outlook: Temps in the day time can range from mid 60's to mid 80's. Nights in the 60's to low 40's. Bring a hat and sunscreen, the elevation is 5000 feet of clear blue open skies.

April 25, 2024

Dear Fellow Hams and Friends,

It is with a sad heart as I write this letter.



As many of you have heard by now, MFJ is ceasing its on-site production in Starkville, Mississippi on May 17, 2024. This is also the same for our sister companies' Ameritron, Hygain, Cushcraft, Mirage and Vecronics.

Times have changed since I started this business 52 years ago. Our product line grew and grew and prospered. COVID-19 changed everything in businesses including ours. It was the hardest hit that we have ever had and we never fully recovered.

I turned 80 this year. I had never really considered retirement but life is so short and my time with my family is so precious.

I want to thank all of our employees who have helped build this company with me over the years. We have many employees who have made MFJ their career for 10, 20, 30, 40 and more years.

We are going to continue to sell MFJ products past May 17, 2024. We have a lot of stock on hand. We will continue to offer repair service work for out-of-warranty and in-warranty units for the foreseeable future.

Finally, a special thanks to all of our customers and our dealers who have made MFJ a worldwide name and a profitable business for so many years. You all are so much appreciated. Sincerely Yours, 73s

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin F. Jue, K5FLU". The signature is written in a cursive style.



SATURDAY JUNE 1



SECOND ANNUAL WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY FAIR



Orinda Community Park
10:30am – 1:00pm

Answers and Knowledge for Adults
Games and Activities for Families

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FTDX101MP | 200W HF/50MHz Transceiver

- Hybrid SDR Configuration • Unparalleled 70 dB Max. Attenuation VC-Tune • New Generation Scope Display 3DSS • ABI (Active Band Indicator) & MPVD (Multi-Purpose VFO Outer Dial) • PC Remote Control Software to Expand the Operating Range • Includes External Power With Matching Front Speaker



FT-710 Aess | HF/50MHz 100W SDR Transceiver

- Unmatched SDR Receiving Performance • Band Pass Filters Dedicated for the Amateur Bands • High Res 4.3-inch TFT Color Touch Display • AESS: Acoustic Enhanced Speaker System with SP-40 For High-Fidelity Audio • Built-in High Speed Auto Antenna Tuner



FTM-500DR | C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Dual Band Xcvr

- Front Firing Acoustically Enhanced Speaker System • True Dual Band Operation, C4FM/C4FM Digital D-D Dual Receive • 2.4" High-Resolution Full-Color Touch Panel Display • Built-in High Precision GPS Receiver • Wireless Operation Capability with Optional Bluetooth® Headset



FTDX10 | HF/50MHz 100 W SDR Transceiver

- Narrow Band and Direct Sampling SDR • Down Conversion, 9MHz IF Roofing Filters Produce Excellent Shape Factor • 5" Full-Color Touch Panel w/3D Spectrum Stream • High Speed Auto Antenna Tuner • Microphone Amplifier w/3-Stage Parametric Equalizer • Remote Operation w/optional LAN Unit (SCU-LAN10)



FT-891 | HF+50 MHz All Mode Mobile Transceiver

Stable 100 Watt Output • 32-Bit IF DSP • Large Dot Matrix LCD Display with Quick Spectrum Scope • USB Port Allows Connection to a PC with a Single Cable • CAT Control, PTT/RTTY Control

FT-70DR C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Xcvr

- System Fusion Compatible • Large Front Speaker delivers 700 mW of Loud Audio Output • Automatic Mode Select detects C4FM or Fm Analog and Switches Accordingly • Huge 1,105 Channel Memory Capacity • External DC Jack for DC Supply and Battery Charging



FT-991A | HF/VHF/UHF All Mode Transceiver

Real-time Spectrum Scope with Automatic Scope Control • Multi-color waterfall display • State of the art 32-bit Digital Signal Processing System • 3kHz Roofing Filter for enhanced performance • 3.5 Inch Full Color TFT USB Capable • Internal Automatic Antenna Tuner • High Accuracy TCXO



FTM-300DR | C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Dual Band

- 50W Output Power • Real Dual Band Operation • Full Color TFT Display • Band Scope • Built-in Bluetooth • WIRELESS-X Portable Digital Mode/Fixed Mode with HRI-200

FT-5DR C4FM/FM 144/430 MHz Dual Band

- High-Res Full-Color Touch Screen TFT LCD Display • Easy Hands-Free Operation w/Built-In Bluetooth® Unit • Built-In High Precision GPS Antenna • 1200/9600bps APRS Data Communications • Supports Simultaneous C4FM Digital • Micro SD Card Slot



FT-2980R | Heavy-Duty 80W 2M FM Transceiver

- 80 watts of RF power • Large 6 digit backlit LCD display for excellent visibility • 200 memory channels for serious users

FT-65R | 144/430 MHz Transceiver

Compact Commercial Grade Rugged Design • Large Front Speaker Delivers 1W of Powerful Clear Audio • 5 Watts of Reliable RF Power Within a compact Body • 3.5-Hour Rapid Charger Included • Large White LED Flashlight, Alarm and Quick Home Channel Access



FTDX101D | HF + 6M Transceiver

- Narrow Band SDR & Direct Sampling SDR • Crystal Roofing Filters Phenomenal Multi-Signal Receiving Characteristics • Unparalleled -70dB Maximum Attenuation VC-Tune • 15 Separate (HAM 10 + GEN 5) Powerful Band Pass Filters • New Generation Scope Displays 3-Dimensional Spectrum Stream



FTM-200DR | C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Dual Band

- 1200/9600bps APRS® Data Communications • 2" High-Res Full-Color TFT Display • High-Speed Band Scope • Advanced C4FM Digital Mode • Voice Recording Function for TX/RX



FTM-6000R | 50W VHF/UHF Mobile Transceiver

- All New User Operating Interface-E20-III (Easy to Operate-III) • Robust Speaker Delivers 3W of Clear, Crisp Receive Audio • Detachable Front Panel Can Be Mounted in Multiple Positions • Supports Optional Bluetooth® Wireless Operation Using the SSM-BT10 or a Commercially Available Bluetooth® Headset



• RETAIL LOCATIONS – Store hours 10:00AM - 5:30PM - Closed Sunday

• PHONE – Toll-free phone hours 9:30AM - 5:30PM

• ONLINE – WWW.HAMRADIO.COM

• FAX – All store locations

• MAIL – All store locations

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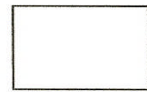
The Carrier

Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 23222

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

www.mdarc.org



**NEXT
MONTH**



FIRST CLASS

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W6CX Nets

M-F 5:42 am Morning Muster 147.060+ 224.780- 441.325+

M-F 6:10am Commuter Net 147.060+ 224.780- 441.325+

Monday 8:00 pm SATERN Net 147.060+

Tuesday 7:30 pm Fat City 10 meter USB/CW Net 28.420 MHz

Tuesday 8:00pm Digital Practice Net 147.060+ 224.78- 441.325+

Wednesday 7:00 pm SKYWARN Net 147.060+

Wednesday 8:00pm Delta Amateur Radio Club Net 147.060+

Thursday 7:30 pm MDARC Club Net 147.060+

Thursday 8:00 pm Digital Amateur Television Net 147.060+

Club Voice Repeaters

147.060 MHz + / PL 100Hz

224.780 MHz - / PL 77Hz 441.325 MHz + / PL 100Hz

EchoLink: W6CX-R /133896, IRLP: 3057

DMR Repeater 144.925 offset plus 2.5 MHz color code 1

D-STAR 145.000 offset plus 2.5 MHz

<https://w6cx.dstargateway.org/>

DATV Internet Stream: <http://w6cxatv.mdarc.org>

YouTube Channel: [Media MDARC](#)

Contra Costa County Emergency Communications Nets Every Thursday

6:30 pm HF Countywide 3.893 MHz LSB

6:45 pm West County 145.110-- (82.5 PL)

7:00 pm Central County 145.680 Simplex

7:00 pm East County 146.535 Simplex

7:00 pm South County 147.480 Simplex

7:20 pm Countywide 145.490-- (107.2 PL)

or 147.735-- (107.2 PL)

or 145.410-- (107.2 PL)

Concord Auxiliary Radio Emergency Service (CARES)

Wednesday 8:00pm 147.405 Simplex

Digital Amateur Television Repeater

Digital ATV Output: 1244.500

Digital ATV Inputs: 1292.500, 1273.0, 917.0, 430.0

Analog ATV Input: 1270.000 FM (PL 192.8)

May and June 2024 Club Calendar

Friday May 17, 2024 7:00pm MDARC General Meeting - Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

Saturday June 1, 2024 8:00am MDARC Technical Committee Meeting - VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Monday June 3, 2024 6:30pm MDARC Board of Directors Meeting - VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

NO GENERAL MEETING IN JUNE! Instead, join us at the W6CX ARRL Field Day Site, Olympic High School, 2730 Salvio Street, Concord on Friday June 21, Saturday June 22 and Sunday June 23 (see page 7)